



Illinois Veteran News

An Update from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs ★ October 2017

★ From the Director

This is the second year for our Serving Those Who Served program and the momentum is growing! Veteran Organizations or organizations that assist Veterans can register a project for volunteers to assist from 11-05 to 11/11. To register a project, go to - <https://www.chicagocares.org/stswopportunitysubmission> We have mini grants available to help fund your project as well. To apply go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDHP6KC>. Our Veterans put us first when they served for us. This is the week when we can show our appreciation and put them first, by lending a helping hand.



We invite you to join us in the State Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday, November 8 – 11:00 am as we present a special Veterans Day ceremony honoring our Illinois Veterans. We will also have the display of Illinois Veterans in Rotunda. This display is created through our partnership with the Senate Republican Caucus. For more information on how to have your veteran as part of this display, read the “Honoring Veterans” article in this newsletter.



Did you know our Veteran Service Officers visit with an average of 400 veterans each day? Our VSO's are trained and accredited by the US Department of Veterans Affairs to provide free assistance to veterans and their dependents and survivors. And I know they are some of the hardest working, caring veterans in this great state. If you have not met with one of our VSOs, plan to do so soon. They will be able to help file a claim and offer important information for you and your family. To find the closest VSO to where you live to our website. Click here - <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/ServiceOffices.aspx>

This is a photo of our VSO Cynthia Greene, Cook 1 Office, and her crew, sponsored by Athleta. They are all breast cancer survivors and the team is called Recovery on Water (ROW). They've competed all over the city and even internationally! **Congratulations Ladies! Keep your teamwork and spirit strong!**

Our mission at the IDVA is very simple. To serve those who have served. In doing so, we serve not only the men and women who have worn the uniform, but also their families. It is our privilege to be able to help our veterans receive the benefits they have earned through service to our nation. Our goal is to empower our veterans and their families to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

We know there are many veterans within our great state who do not require any assistance – but we still want to encourage you to “Stand Up and Be Counted!” by registering with your local VSO. In doing so, you're helping IDVA to do a better job of planning for services, seeking federal funding and understanding the needs of our veteran communities statewide. [Click here to register.](#)

We Thank you for your service and for your sacrifice and we at the IDVA look forward to offering our services to You.

★ Honoring Veterans

This year, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Senate Republican Caucus are honoring the military service and sacrifice of all our men and women in Illinois. We encourage you to submit a photograph and written story of any veteran to be displayed in the Illinois State Capitol Rotunda beginning Wednesday, November 1 through Monday, November 13.

Please email a photo and written story (max: 250 words) along with the following information: name, military branch (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps,

National Guard, Navy) and conflict served (Afghanistan, Iraq, September 11, Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea, WWII, WWI, Peacetime, other). Military photos are preferred but not necessary.

Email your submissions to VeteransDay@sgop.ilga.gov or send your story and photo to:

Veterans Day Wall
309G State House
Springfield, IL 62706

★ Salute to Vietnam Veterans



On Veterans Day the Union League Club of Chicago (ULCC), ULCC American Legion Post 758 and the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs present a special event honoring veterans of the Vietnam War. The ULCC proudly presents this program as an Official Commemorative Partner of the U.S. Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration.

Our program features presentation of the official Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemorative Pin

to Vietnam veterans, a performance by cadets of the WEST POINT GLEE CLUB, and keynote remarks by ERICA JEFFRIES, Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. We will adjourn by 12:30 p.m.

The "Salute To Vietnam Veterans" is open to all veterans of the Vietnam War who served on active duty from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 (regardless of the location of service) and their family members. We also will present CERTIFICATES OF HONOR to surviving spouses of Vietnam veterans. In addition, we are offering complimentary parking to Vietnam veterans who participate in our Nov. 10 program.

We want to honor all Vietnam veterans and surviving spouses of Vietnam veterans throughout the Chicagoland region! Please RSVP today at <https://vietnamvets.eventbrite.com>

★ Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment

The Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program provides for the payment of eligible educational loans as an incentive for medical providers to pursue and continue their careers at State of Illinois veterans' homes. The annual award to qualified physicians, certified nurse practitioners, registered professional nurses, certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses may be up to \$5,000 to repay their student loan debt. This award may be received for up to a maximum of four years.

Recipients are selected from among qualified new applicants, as well as those who file timely renewal applica-

tions. The total number of awards each year is contingent upon available funding. If funding in any given year is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants, awarding will be based on the date the complete application (with all required documentation) is received at ISAC's Deerfield office. Preference may be given to renewal applicants provided that the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements.

For more information and the application go to **2017-18 VHMLRP application** or check with your Human resources office.

★ Wish List

The IDVA operates four Veterans Homes throughout Illinois. The homes are caring for our Illinois Heroes. Not all our Veteran residents can afford items for themselves. Our homes have created a Wish List for our Illinois Heroes. If you would like to donate to the Homes, you can either purchase a new item (we cannot accept used) or mail a check to the Member Benefit Fund. Here is the partial wish list and addresses. Thank you for your consideration!

Clothing Donations	Rationale
Polo Shirts	M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
Cotton Slacks	same as above
Velcro Tennis Shoes	Sizes 9-10-11-12-13-14
Sandals Velcro Straps	Sizes 8 thru 13
Sweat Suit Outfits	Mostly L, XL, XXL
Underwear – Briefs	L, XL, XXL
Underwear – Ladies	Sm, Med, Lg
Socks – Ankle Length	Large
Socks for Women	Anklelets
Diabetic socks	Mostly L, XL, XXL
Gloves – Men	Cold Weather
Gloves – Women	Cold Weather
Suspenders (men)	
Belts – Men & Women	All sizes

Specific clothing lists are available. We also accept monetary donations for clothing to use when we are out of specific items or sizes. All donations aid the veterans with daily expenses which free up personal funds.

Monetary Donations	Rationale
Postage Stamp Fund	Letter Writing
Out to Eat Fund	Favorite activities
Blackjack & Bingo	Favorite activities

Address:

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home Anna

792 N. Main Street, Anna, Illinois 62906

Phone: (618) 833-6302

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home LaSalle

1015 O'Conor Avenue, LaSalle, Illinois 61301

Phone: (815) 223-0303

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home Manteno

1 Veterans Drive, Manteno, Illinois 60950

Phone: (815) 468-6581

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home Quincy

1707 N. 12th Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301

Phone: (217) 222-8641

★ IDVA Calendar

- 10/14 Veterans Advisory Council**
– Quincy Veterans Home
- 10/19 Bronze Star Presentation – ILNAG** – Decatur
- 10/19 LifeNav** – Chicago
- 10/20 Seek & Assist Tour** – LaSalle – Director Speaking
- 10/24 Seek & Assist Tour** – Manteno – Director speaking
- 10/28 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veteran Program** – Anna Veteran Home
- 11/05-11/11 Serving Those Who Serve Projects**
around Illinois
- 11/08 Veterans Day Program** – Capitol Rotunda
- 11/10 Veterans Day** – Office closed
- 12/07 Pearl Harbor Day** – Springfield

Find details about all these events and others on our Events page of our website -

<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/about-us/events/Pages/default.aspx>

★ New Employees



Jacob Crawford is an Appeal Specialist in the Cook 5 Claims Management Center. For the past 5 years, he was advocating for veterans at the VFW Illinois Service Office. Jacob is a veteran of the U.S. Navy from 1998 to 2005 where he served as a Persian-Farsi

aircrew cryptologic interpreter on EP-3E aircraft in the Persian Gulf Region. He graduated from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA and was ultimately stationed at Ft. Gordon, GA. He deployed to Bahrain and flew with 4 different reconnaissance squadrons over Iraq, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf Region logging more than 1000 flight hours. After he transitioned out of the Navy he achieved his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in 2009 in History with a focus on the Islamic World.

★ Employee of the Quarter



(L-R) IDVA Director Erica Jeffries, Susan Veihl, Chris Dever, IDVA Asst. Director Harry Sawyer and IDVA Chief of Staff Renysa Brown.

Congratulations to Susan Veihl (Fifer Nursing) and **Chris Dever** (Housekeeping) for being named IDVA Employees of the Quarter.

Susan was recognized as Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of FY17 while Chris was named Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of FY17.

Chris is the Support Services Coordinator for the Quincy Veteran Home Housekeeping Department. As mentioned in her nominator's words, "Under her leadership, the Housekeeping staff do a great job of keeping this place looking and smelling good. Coordinating this effort is no small task when you consider the vastness of the Illinois Veterans Home. Chris treats all her staff fair and with dignity. She greets everyone she meets with a smile and always keeps a positive attitude.

Congratulations Susan and Chris! And thank you for everything you do for the residents and staff in Quincy.



State of Illinois
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